

Secretary Rusk Expresses Appreciation to Venezuela for Quarantine Action

Press release 731 dated December 14

Following is the text of a personal message from Secretary Rusk to the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Dr. Marcos Falcón Briceño.

DECEMBER 10, 1962

DEAR MR. MINISTER: As you are aware, the quarantine measures against the delivery of offensive weapons and associated materials to Cuba ceased on November 20, 1962.¹

The forthright and vigorous manner in which your Government responded to the threat to the hemisphere, immediately assuming its corresponding responsibilities in those dramatic hours and contributing forces to insure the effectiveness of the quarantine measures instituted, has been widely and favorably regarded.

The effective participation of two Venezuelan destroyers, along with the forces of the United States and other members of the Organization of American States, was, indeed, an eloquent demonstration of your Government's full assumption of its responsibilities to defend the Western Hemisphere during this critical period in its history.

It is particularly inspiring to note that your Government, at a time when it was courageously engaged in defending its own independence against the Communist-led and inspired subversion and insurrection, made a significant contribution to the defense of the hemisphere.

I trust that Providence will continue to guide the energies of both of our nations in the service of peace, the preservation of the political independence of the American States and the maintenance of the high ideals of justice and peaceful progress in the world.

Sincerely yours,

DEAN RUSK

¹ BULLETIN of Dec. 17, 1962, p. 918.